

both as an elected board member and then later as a member of the Friends of the Berkley Library. Dan was also on the Library Building Committee which oversaw the expansion of the library and the acquisition of new materials. Thanks to his work and those of his colleagues, the newly renovated library opened in 1998 and has continued to be a valuable resource for the community.

Beyond his advocacy and support of the Berkley Public Library, Dan is involved in many other local organizations and projects geared toward strengthening the community. As a concerned citizen, prior to his election to the City Council, Dan served on the Planning Commission, working to secure continued future prosperity for Berkley residents. In furtherance of that goal, Dan also helped establish the Woodward 5, a local association of surrounding communities and school districts along the Woodward Corridor dedicated to promoting the region to prospective businesses and residents. As a Berkley resident passionate about the health of his city, Dan has also organized annual sweep operations, which bring Berkley residents together to clean up the city's downtown area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Dan's positive impact on the Berkley community and wish him well in his retirement from the Berkley City Council. As a true advocate for building a strong community, I know Dan's work on behalf of his city and its residents will be felt far into the future. I wish Dan many years of happiness and trust he will continue to advocate for the brightest future for Berkley and its residents.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 856 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Education Week, which was established 90 years ago, and is taking place from November 14–19, 2011.

I ask all of my constituents to please join the National Education Association (NEA) and myself in celebrating National Education Week. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to honor the hard work of our students, dedication of our teachers, educators, and all those in our community who help our students to succeed.

Providing high quality education to every student in our Manhattan Congressional District and across America has always been one of my life's top priorities. This past summer I

introduced the Rebuilding America's Schools Act, which would increase aid for school construction and renovation across the country.

My passion for improving our children's education is also why I continue to fight alongside President Barack Obama to pass the DREAM Act, which would provide 360,000 high school graduates who are undocumented with a legal means to work and attend college, and could provide incentives for another 715,000 children of illegal immigrants between the ages of 5 and 17 to finish high school and pursue higher education.

I strongly believe that we must give every possible amount of support to our students, teachers and educators so that future generations of Americans will have the ability to succeed in a global economy and face the challenges of tomorrow.

I would like to recognize all the public and charter schools in our District, and the numerous unions and organizations dedicated to educating our community such as the United Federation of Teachers, the New York State United Teachers, the Support Workers' Union, Harlem YMCA, Harlem Children's Zone, Harlem Center for Education, Children's Aid Society of East Harlem Center, and all the employees of the New York City Department of Education.

I would also like to encourage all the students in our District to keep working hard and reach for the stars because you are our future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 4, 2011, I was unable to be present for part of a series of recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "no" on rollcall vote No. 830 (on Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 455, providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 2838), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 831 (on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3321), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 832 (on Agreeing to the Cummings Amendment to H.R. 2838), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 833 (on Agreeing to the Thompson Amendment to H.R. 2838), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 834 (on Agreeing to the Napolitano Amendment to H.R. 2838), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 835 (on Agreeing to the Bishop Amendment to H.R. 2838), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 836 (on Agreeing to the Slaughter Amendment to H.R. 2838).

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2112, CONSOLIDATED AND FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of today's appropriations bills, which—

while far from perfect—marks a distinct and bipartisan improvement over the House's original product. Today's bill restores key investments in jobs, innovation and public safety that were eliminated in the original House bills. In addition, we have removed the extreme policy riders on issues ranging from Wall Street reform to women's health. Additionally, in order to give the Appropriations Committees time to complete the rest of their FY 2012 work, H.R. 2112 extends the current Continuing Resolution through December 16, 2011.

This conference report includes the Agriculture-FDA, Commerce-Justice-Science and Transportation-HUD Appropriations bills for FY 2012. Consistent with the \$1.043 trillion cap on discretionary spending for FY 2012 set forth in the Budget Control Act, these three bills contain \$128 billion in discretionary spending, with associated mandatory spending and transportation trust funds bringing the total to \$297 billion. An additional \$2.3 billion is provided for emergency disaster relief.

The final Agricultural-FDA bill provides a total of \$105.6 billion for domestic food assistance programs, including \$80.4 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, and \$6.6 billion for the Women's Infant and Children, WIC, program. This result is \$33 million more than the Senate mark and \$9.3 billion more than the original House bill, which is appropriate given the increased demand for food aid during this economic recovery. The Food and Drug Administration receives \$2.5 billion, which is \$334 million more than the original House level, and will allow FDA to continue implementing the landmark Food Safety and Modernization Act to better protect the estimated 48 million Americans sickened by food-borne illness each year. Of concern in the final Agricultural-FDA bill is misguided language barring USDA from implementing new child nutrition standards and clearly inadequate funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission which has been charged with regulating the rampant speculation that helped precipitate the financial crisis. Now is not the time to be under-resourcing our regulatory cops in this demonstrably troubled neighborhood.

The final Commerce-Justice-Science bill allocates \$751 million to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, including \$128 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program to provide training and technical assistance to U.S. manufacturers. The National Science Foundation, NSF, receives \$7 billion, or \$173 million above FY 2011, to enhance the basic research necessary to accelerate innovation and enhance U.S. competitiveness. And the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, is funded at \$17.8 billion, which is a 6 percent increase over the original House level and includes \$529.6 million for NASA's James Webb Space Telescope.

Finally, I'm pleased that the final Transportation-HUD contains \$18.9 billion for Section 8 vouchers and \$9.34 billion for the project-based Section 8 program, as well as \$45 million in housing counseling, which was not funded in FY 2011. Additionally, the THUD title in today's conference report preserves funding for key transit priorities, including \$10.6 billion for the FTA, \$1.95 billion for New Starts, \$500 million for TIGER grants and

\$150 million for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority, WMATA. Unfortunately, this bill also mistakenly zeroes out

high speed rail funding and cuts Community Development Block Grants by 12 percent.

Mr. Speaker, while I do not agree with every choice made in this legislation, I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for work-

ing through these issues on a bipartisan basis in a fiscally constrained environment and bringing this much improved product to the floor today.